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ABSTRACT

The opinion poll of public school teachers reported in this document is part of a series designed to report scientifically collected data that accurately reflects the views and experiences of specific groups of educators. For this study, a total of 3,300 teachers were included in the random sample and 1,265 (38 percent) responded. The responses of public school teachers provide a comprehensive look at their opinions, status, and experiences. Tables summarize the data for the total responding group and for the following subgroups: (1) school type (elementary, middle or junior high, senior high) (2) career plans (teaching is my career, undecided, considering other career opportunities; (3) sex; and (4) four age categories. Questions covered such topics as years of experience as a teacher, graduate degrees, current class sizes, and length of time spent at schools each day. Respondents were also asked to provide information about the schools in which they worked and about the students enrolled in these schools. Opinion items in the survey instrument asked teachers for their views on national testing, the elements that either contribute to or detract from their own job satisfaction, and an assessment of factors hindering student achievement. Data from teachers' responses are summarized in 46 tables; principals' responses to a poll conducted at the same time as the teachers' survey are summarized in 6 tables. Appended is a technical note with information about estimates of sampling variation, and confidence intervals of percentages and of averages. (MLF)

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